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length of the body, which is about five lines. In one instance I saw a brown Hydra from the Schuylkill, the body of which was five lines in length, elongate its arms to nearly three inches. The green Hydra is found more especially on the under side of floating leaves in quiet ponds. It usually has five arms, though I have observed six, and more rarely seven; and this is also the case with the brown Hydra, which sometimes has but four arms. As in *H. viridis*, the arms of our green Hydra are shorter than the body.

July 12th.

The President, DR. RUSCHENBERGER, in the Chair.

Ten members present.

POOF. LEIDY exhibited a fossil, submitted to his examination by the Smithsonian Institution. It consisted of a much mutilated portion of a ramus of the lower jaw of a large ruminant. The specimen, very friable and encrusted, was found 22 feet below the surface, in clay, on the "bench" or "second bottom" of Boyer River, Harrison Co., Iowa, and was presented to the Smiths. Inst. by D. R. Witter, of Woodbine, Iowa. Other bones were discovered in association with the specimen, but crumbled to pieces.

The jaw fragment was especially interesting, as it is supposed to belong to *Ovibos cavifrons*, and is the first specimen of a lower jaw yet discovered which may be attributed to that animal. It contains the last molar tooth nearly entire, but much worn. This tooth is constructed after the type of the corresponding one in the Sheep, and exhibits no trace of the accessory fold between the anterior and median pairs of lobes such as exists in the Ox, nor of a tubercle such as is found in the same position in the Deer. The fore and aft measurement of the crown of the tooth is full two inches; the width at the fore part of the crown is nearly an inch.

An isolated tooth, a last lower molar which had not yet protruded from the jaw, from Natchez, Mississippi, preserved in the Museum of the Academy, by comparison with the tooth in the jaw fragment, would appear to belong to the same animal. The specimen is two and a quarter inches long and three-fourths of an inch wide at the fore part, and is two inches in its antero-posterior measurement.

MR. T. HALE STREETS made the following remarks on the cranium of an owl:

Among the Academy's collection of birds' crania there is one belonging to a species of owl (supposed to be the *Nyctale acadica*), which presents a very remarkable instance of the want of symmetry in corresponding parts of opposite sides.

In this skull the squamous portion of the temporal bone is thin and scroll-like, and joins the post-frontal plate. What is interesting about it is the manner in which this union takes place. On the right side the lower end of the scroll-like squamous bone turns upward and forward, and unites with the post-frontal. On the left side the contrary to this is the case; the upper extremity of the bone curls over and joins the post-frontal, while the lower extremity is free.

If there had been but a single specimen of this cranium I would have been led to regard this instance of symmetry as abnormal; but as the same peculiarity of structure is presented by two (these being the only representatives of the species in the collection), it would rather suggest itself as a normal condition, although instances of coincidence of abnormality exist, especially in the lower forms of life.

July 19th.

The President, DR. RUSCHENBERGER, in the Chair.

Fourteen members present.

1870.]